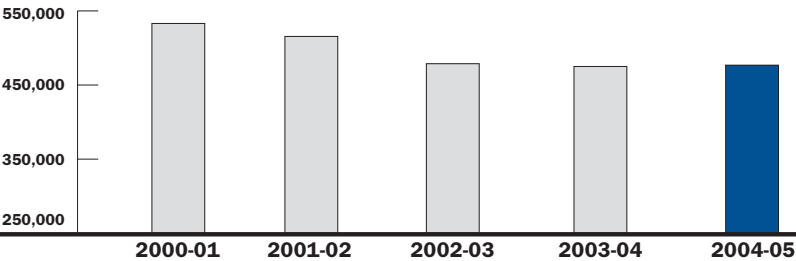


Transit Ridership Halts Three-Year Slide With Slight Increase for 2004-05

- For the first time since fiscal year (FY) 2000-01, Bay Area transit ridership showed a slight increase in FY 2004-05, with nearly 2 million more passenger boardings on the region’s buses, trains, ferries and light-rail vehicles. Overall, Bay Area transit ridership grew less than 1 percent to 477 million passengers in FY 2004-05, but this follows declines of 3 percent in FY 2001-02, 7 percent in FY 2002-03 and 1 percent in FY 2003-04. And while ridership is still down 11 percent since FY 2000-01, the slight increase in FY 2004-05 suggests that passenger volumes have stabilized and may be poised for an upswing in future years.
- Caltrain saw the most dramatic ridership gain in FY 2004-05, an increase of 15 percent. Caltrain boosted

Ridership on Bay Area Transit Systems by Operator, Fiscal Years 2000-01 – 2004-05

Operator	Thousands of Annual Boardings					Percent Change	
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04– 2004-05	2000-01– 2004-05
Muni	236,205	234,303	216,947	217,049	218,205	+1%	–8%
BART	103,919	97,351	93,799	98,026	99,516	+2%	–4%
AC Transit	71,529	69,531	62,755	64,906	65,076	+<1%	–9%
Valley Transportation Authority	58,160	53,710	46,864	39,776	38,486	–3%	–34%
SamTrans	18,136	17,387	16,859	15,064	14,510	–4%	–20%
Golden Gate Transit	11,618	10,676	10,261	9,789	9,466	–3%	–19%
Caltrain	9,925	8,138	7,870	8,015	9,185	+15%	–7%
Other Operators	23,546	24,460	23,232	22,391	22,438	+<1%	–5%
Total – All Operators	533,038	515,556	478,587	475,016	476,882	+<1%	–11%



Sources: Metropolitan Transportation Commission and transit operators
Data for fiscal year 2004-05 is provisional.

revenue miles during this period 22 percent, focusing on the “Baby Bullet” express service between San Francisco and San Jose.

- For the second year in a row, ridership on the three largest operators (Muni, BART and AC Transit) all showed very minor increases in terms of percentage. These three operators account for 80 percent of all transit trips in the region.
- Although still experiencing declines in ridership, mid-sized operators such as VTA, SamTrans and Golden Gate Transit fared better in FY 2004-05 than in the past few years, with the rate of decline slowing to 3 percent for both VTA and Golden Gate Transit, and 4 percent for SamTrans. SamTrans and VTA both made minor service cuts in FY 2004-05, while Golden Gate’s revenue miles decreased nearly 12 percent in the same period.

A Closer Look at Top 10 Ridership Bus Routes, by Boardings

- There is a large degree of year-to-year consistency in the list of the most heavily used Bay Area bus routes.
- Significantly, the number one and two routes carry more than twice as many passengers on an average weekday as the number nine and 10 routes.
- In FY 2004-05, eight of the top 10 bus routes were operated by San Francisco Muni, which also boasts the largest ridership among all Bay Area transit operators.

Top 10 Bay Area Bus Routes, by Boardings

Rank	Route	Average Weekday Boardings FY 2004-05	FY 2003-04 Rank
1.	SF Muni: 38 Geary	51,100	1
2.	SF Muni: 14 Mission	47,100	2
3.	SF Muni: 30 Stockton	31,200	4
4.	SF Muni: 15 Third St.	30,400	7
5.	SF Muni: 1 California	29,900	6
6.	SF Muni: 9 San Bruno	28,600	3
7.	SF Muni: 49 Van Ness/Mission	26,200	5
8.	SF Muni: 22 Fillmore	22,800	10
9.	AC Transit: 40/40L/43 Telegraph/Foothill	19,900	NA
10.	AC Transit: 51 Broadway	18,600	NA

Sources: Muni, AC Transit